Fish Use of Stream Drainage Basins in the City of Bellevue

April 2009

Background and Data Sources

Current knowledge of the species of fish in Bellevue's streams and their distribution is based on stream typing work conducted in the summer of 2001 (The Watershed Company 2001) that involved assessing culverts as to whether fish could pass upstream and electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted annually during the fall between 2001 and 2008 (Taylor Associates 2002; The Watershed Company 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007b, 2009); and peamouth surveys and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data). Lake Washington shore use by warm water fish was documented by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in June of 2005 (Personal Communication, Chad Jackson, July 18, 2007). Fish use of the lake shore along Lake Sammamish has not been documented by the City of Bellevue.

Lakehurst Area

No fish were observed in the Lakehurst drainage during the 2001 stream typing project. The two southern streams were found to be completely or nearly dry during this study. Lakehurst Creek (08-0281), accessed from the Park & Ride off I-405, has perennial flow through pool sequences, though evidently still insufficient to provide suitable fish habitat. Most pools were no more than three inches deep, and only two reached a depth of as much as six inches within the survey length. The stream is piped from the lake to I-405, preventing any upstream migration from Lake Washington.

The northern stream, located in Newcastle Beach Park, flows sluggishly through the lower portion of the park. It is a low-gradient stream with thick, sandy sediment. The stream likely has sufficient flow to support fish use, but a wetland generally forms in the transitional area between the stream and Lake Washington, and flows may not be sufficient through the wetland and water temperatures may be too warm to attract fish from the lake. Crayfish were observed in this stream.

See Bellevue's Basin Fact Sheet main web page for additional fish use information for Bellevue streams.

References Cited

Taylor Associates. 2002. Kelsey Creek and Tributaries 2001 Spawner Survey, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2001. City of Bellevue Stream Typing Inventory: Final Report. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2003. Salmon Spawner Survey 2002: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2004. Salmon Spawner Survey 2003: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue.

The Watershed Company. 2005. Salmon Spawner Survey 2004: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2006. Salmon Spawner Survey 2005: Kelsey Creekand Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue.

The Watershed Company. 2007a. Fish Salvage Report: Coal Creek Sediment Basin. City of Bellevue, Utilities, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2007b. Salmon Spawner Survey 2006: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2009. 2008 Salmon Spawner Surveys: Kelsey Creek, West Tributary, Richards Creek and Coal Creek. Page 76 + appendices. City of Bellevue Utilities, Bellevue, WA.

Williams, R. W., R. M. Laramie, and J. J. Ames. 1975. A Catalog of Washington Streams and Salmon Utilization. Washington Department of Fisheries, Olympia, Washington